



# News

**Montana State Parks • 1420 E. 6th Avenue • Helena, MT 59620**

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## **Montana State Parks Seeks Public Comment on Draft Plan for Cooney State Park**

(Billings, MT) – Montana State Parks ([stateparks.mt.gov](http://stateparks.mt.gov)) is seeking public comment on a draft management plan for Cooney State Park. The draft plan focuses on visitor services, operations and maintenance, recreation opportunities, resource conservation, and education efforts for the next decade.

Montana State Parks prepares management plans for state parks to guide quality recreational experiences, enhance park resources, and preserve the park's wildlife and natural assets.

"Our visitors come here to enjoy fishing, boating, camping, and cross-country skiing with their families and friends," said Cooney State Park Manager Jennifer Alexander. "We are excited to have this new plan in place to continue to provide great service to the public over the coming years."

Montana State Parks will hold two open houses in February to gather feedback on the draft plan and proposed management priorities:

- Wednesday, February 15 from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm at the FWP Region 5 office at 2300 Lake Elmo Drive in Billings Heights.
- Thursday, February 16 from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm at the Roberts Fire Hall at 3 South 1<sup>st</sup> Street in Roberts.

*The open houses will have an identical format, so there is no need to attend both. All interested are welcome and encouraged to attend.*

To view the plan electronically, <http://stateparks.mt.gov/parks/management/cooney.html> or visit [stateparks.mt.gov](http://stateparks.mt.gov) go to 'Parks Quick Links' and click on "Public Comment on Cooney Management Plan".

Hard copies are also available at the FWP Regional office in Billings at 2300 Lake Elmo Drive or by contacting the Cooney State Park office at 406-445-2326.

Address written comments to: Cooney Plan Comments, P.O. Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701; or electronically by email to [CooneyPlanComments@mt.gov](mailto:CooneyPlanComments@mt.gov). Public comments may also be submitted in writing at the open houses.

**Public comments can be submitted starting February 10, 2012. All comments must be received by 5:00 pm on March 2, 2012.** The final plan will be available in spring 2012.

Cooney State Park comprises 309 acres along the shores of Cooney Reservoir. It is one of the most popular recreation areas serving South Central Montana. In 2011, there were more than 93,000 visitors to Cooney during the Summer Season from May-August. Cooney State Park is open year-round and features good walleye and rainbow trout fishing as well as opportunities for boating, camping, fishing/ice-fishing, and cross-country skiing.

*Visit Montana State Parks ([stateparks.mt.gov](http://stateparks.mt.gov)) and enjoy camping, hiking, fishing, swimming, boating and more and discover some of the greatest natural and cultural treasures on earth.*

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